(b) Iron ore turnover of NMDC and share of Chhattisgarh in it during previous 3 years are as under;

(Rs. in crrore)

Year	Iron ore turnover	Iron ore turnover from Chhattisgarh
2002-03	1177.28	900.81
2003-04	1411.39	1062.53
2004-05	2180.58	1631.27

(c) The details of the Corporate tax and Dividend paid by NMDC to Govt, of India in the last three years are as under;

Year	Corporate Tax	Dividend paid (Excl. dividend tax)	
		Total	Share of Government
2002-	107.98	33.04	32.51
03	183.39	30.65	39.01
2003-	468.21	97.13	95.56

(d) The details of royalty paid by NMDC to the Govt, of Chhattisgarh is as follows;

(Rs. in crore)

Year	Royalty
2002-03	25.04
2003-04	25.94
2004-05	29.55

Iron-ore export

2731. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether India's iron ore production during 2004 was around 142 million tonnes against domestic demand of 56 million tonnes;

(b) whether the R.K. Dang Committee has recommended that iron ore exports should be tapered off in a span of ten years from now;

(c) whether steel industry is pitching for a total and immediate ban on iron ore exports, while the ore export lobby wants exports to continue indefinitely; and

(d) whether an abrupt ban on iron ore export would adversely affect the ore mining industry in Karnataka and Goa with a lot of investments in ports and mines and the machinery would become idle?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) As per

provisional figures provided by Indian Bureau of Mines (IBM) the production of iron ore during 2004-05 was 142.7 million tonnes. IBM has not provided any firm estimate of domestic demand of iron ore during the same period. However, based on crude steel production during 2004-05, the domestic consumption of iron ore is estimated to be in excess of 54 million tonnes.

(b) Exports of iron ore did not form a part of the terms of reference of the "Expert Group" which was constituted by the Ministry of Steel under the Chairmanship of Shri R.K. Dang as hence no specific recommendation has been made in the report of the "Expert Group" for tapering off iron ore exports in a span of ten years from now. However, Shri R.K. Dang has separately submitted a list titled "Other observations and recommendations" covering areas outside the terms of reference of the "Expert Group". This, *inter alia,* contains recommendations for stopping exports of high and medium grade lump iron ore (except if being sold under existing long term international contracts of NMDC); phasing out exports of high grade iron ore fines and canalization of exports, within ceilings, of medium grade iron ore fines.

(c) Some steel producers and associations representing various sections of the steel industry have represented for placing curbs on export of iron ore. On the other hand, represented against any move for placing curbs or ban on exports of iron ore.

(d) The iron ore produced in Karnataka and Goa is predominantly medium and low grade. Besides production of fines is predominant in these states. The domestic and local demand for such ore is low, on account of inadequate agglomeration and benefication capacities in the country and limited local steel making capacities in these states. As such production in these states is primarily dependent on the export market and an abrupt ban on exports of iron ore can be expected to affect production of iron ore in these states. This could also have a consequential impact on utilization of investments in both ports and the mines.

(MR. CHAIRMAN in the Chair.)

श्री सभापतिः सदन की कार्यवाही एक बजे तक के लिए स्थगित की जाती है।

The House then adjourned at fifty-six minutes past eleven of the clock,

(at 1.03 p.m. Secretary-General made the following announcement: "Hon'ble Members, under the directions of the Hon'ble Chairman, i hereby announce that the House, for lack of Quorum, does not meet now, and will meet at 3.00 p.m. today.")